

Message Text

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ORIGIN HA-05

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 EA-10 IO-13 ISO-00 SIG-03 SSO-00
CA-01 VO-05 INSE-00 CIAE-00 INR-10 NSAE-00 SY-05
DODE-00 AID-05 OMB-01 TRSE-00 PA-01 INRE-00
NSCE-00 PM-05 SP-02 SS-15 /094 R

DRAFTED BY HA/ORM:JBROH-KAHN:LJ
APPROVED BY HA/ORM:SCLOWMAN
HA/ORM:LARSENBLATT
EA/HR:FCBENNETT (DRAFT)
EA/ANP:ESHURWITZ (DRAFT)
-----076915 220028Z /42

O R 220000Z MAR 78
FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO AMEMBASSY CANBERRA IMMEDIATE
INFO AMEMBASSY BANGKOK
AMEMBASSY KUALA LUMPUR
AMEMBASSY SINGAPORE
AMCONSUL HONG KONG
AMEMBASSY JAKARTA
AMEMBASSY MANILA
USMISSION GENEVA
AMEMBASSY PARIS
AMEMBASSY OTTAWA
AMEMBASSY WELLINGTON

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: SREF

SUBJECT: NEW AUSTRALIAN PROGRAM FOR 2,000 INDOCHINESE
REFUGEES

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REF: A. CANBERRA 2047 (NOTAL); B. KUALA LUMPUR 2278

1. WELCOME ANNOUNCEMENT REF A THAT AUSTRALIA WILL ACCEPT
AN ADDITIONAL 2,000 REFUGEES BY END OF JUNE AND ALSO
CONTRIBUTE 1.3 MILLION DOLLARS TO UNHCR FOR INDOCHINESE
REFUGEES. REF B STATES THAT REFUGEES FOR AUSTRALIA WILL
BE MOVED FROM THAI AND MALAYSIAN BOAT CAMPS, THAT 60

PERCENT WILL BE BOAT CASES, AND THAT GOA PROGRAM WILL BE REVIEWED PERIODICALLY TO ASCERTAIN NEED FOR ONGOING PROGRAMS IN 1978 AND 1979. DEPARTMENT UNDERSTANDS THAT GOA IS IN PROCESS OF FORMULATING LONG RANGE INDOCHINESE REFUGEE POLICY LOOKING PAST CURRENT PROGRAM FOR 2,000.

2. AMBASSADOR SHOULD AT HIGHEST APPROPRIATE LEVEL EXPRESS OUR APPRECIATION TO GOA FOR CONTINUING TO SHARE THE LOAD WITH ITS NEW PROGRAM. YOU SHOULD URGE THAT IN CONSIDERING LONG RANGE PROGRAM AUSTRALIA SHOULD CONTINUE TO ACCEPT ABOUT ONE THIRD OF BOAT REFUGEES, I.E., 500-600 A MONTH AT PRESENT RATES, AS IT HAS BEEN DOING RECENTLY, AS WELL AS SOME LAND REFUGEES, PARTICULARLY THOSE WITH TIES TO AUSTRALIA.

3. ON THIS POINT, REQUEST CANBERRA CLARIFY POINTS MADE REF B AS TO WHETHER 2,000 IN NEW PROGRAM WILL ALL BE BOAT REFUGEES, WHETHER ONLY 60 PERCENT WILL BE, AND WHETHER THEY WILL ALL COME FROM MALAYSIA AND THAILAND, OR WHETHER GOA HAS PLANNED ANY PARTICULAR BREAKDOWN.

4. IN DISCUSSING LONG RANGE PROGRAM, AMBASSADOR SHOULD ADD THAT THE USG CONSIDERS THAT ONLY WAY TO ADEQUATELY COPE WITH THE CONTINUING FLOW OF BOAT REFUGEES IS TO ACCEPT ALL OF THEM FOR PERMANENT RESETTLEMENT; THIS WILL INSURE THAT COUNTRIES OF TEMPORARY SAFEHAVEN WILL ACCEPT THE REFUGEES WITHOUT PROBLEMS. WITH U.S. AND AUSTRALIA TAKING LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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LEAD ROLE THIS CAN BE ACCOMPLISHED. SUCH A PROGRAM WILL SAVE LIVES AND IN THE CASE OF AUSTRALIA ELIMINATE THE INCENTIVE OF REFUGEES TO UNDERTAKE THE VOYAGE DIRECTLY TO AUSTRALIA.

5. FINALLY, AMBASSADOR SHOULD POINT OUT THAT, AS GOA PROBABLY AWARE, USG IS NOW IN THE PROCESS OF DEVELOPING A LONG TERM POLICY ON THE FUTURE ACCEPTANCE OF INDOCHINESE REFUGEES, INCLUDING BOTH BOAT AND LAND CASES. AUSTRALIAN WILLINGNESS TO ACCEPT AN ADDITIONAL SUBSTANTIAL NUMBER AND SHARE THE BURDEN WILL MAKE IT THAT MUCH EASIER TO GET FINAL APPROVAL FOR A NEW U.S. PROGRAM. VANCE

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